

“Stay Home, Save Lives” Order: What does it mean?

On March 23, Gov. Kate Brown signed Executive Order 20-12, requiring people to stay home in order to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The “Stay Home, Save Lives” order requires certain “nonessential” businesses to close and people to remain in their places of residence “to the maximum extent possible.” Oregonians are instructed to “minimize” travel, except to access essential services, such as groceries and medical care or physical activity to maintain a healthy lifestyle. No additional restrictions have been put on restaurants, which may still offer take-out and delivery.

When people do go out to access services, they should maintain 6 feet of space between themselves and others. With the exception of members of the same household, all nonessen-

tial social and recreational gatherings are prohibited, regardless of size, if social distance cannot be maintained.

Under the order, for example, it is okay to go to the pharmacy or to go outside for walks if you are not in a group and you practice proper social distancing. It is not okay to play a basketball game or for kids to gather in parks.

Failure to comply with the order is considered an immediate danger to public health. Consequently, violating the order could result in a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail and \$1,250 fine. Though everything in the order is enforceable by law, Gov. Brown said she hopes law enforcement’s role can be limited.

“Our law enforcement needs to be focused on real emergencies across the state,” she explained.

Oregon State Police (OSP) agreed, and offered specific guidance about its enforcement mandate.

“All Oregon law enforcement agree that police action is extremely undesirable,” said an OSP statement. Instead, if police witness gatherings that violate the order, they will attempt to educate participants about its requirements. “Citation or arrest would be an extreme last resort.”

This is not martial law, OSP continued. “There are no curfews and a person’s movements are not restricted.” Residents do not require special documentation or “papers” to go to work or permitted activities. Traffic can move freely within Oregon

and bordering states. Though most outdoor gathering places are closed, Oregonians may still recreate outdoors, so long as social distance is maintained.

Those who witness a violation of the order are encouraged to first help educate their fellow Oregonians, and only call their local police agency’s non-emergency number as a last resort.

The order does not have an end date, but given the outlook for the spread of coronavirus in Oregon, it could be in place for at least a few weeks.

Meanwhile, cover your cough, wash your hands, and stay home if you are sick.

COVID-19 City Actions

COVID-19 has changed our daily lives abruptly and the City is doing its part to help citizens stay informed.

The City of Veneta has put a COVID-19 page together on our website at www.venetaoregon.gov

The City has added links to agency’s that are tracking COVID-19 such as Oregon Health Authority and the World Health

Organization.

The page has been organized by groups of information and include business resources, community questions, City actions and critical health links.

Please continue to practice safe social distancing, stay well and stay home!

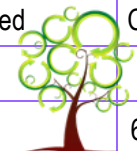


CIVIC CALENDAR

April 2020

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

1	Park Board Meeting	Cancelled
7	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
8	Economic Development Committee Meeting	Cancelled
11	Easter Egg Hunt	Cancelled
12	Easter	
13	City Council Meeting - Urban Renewal Agency meeting - immediately following	6:30 p.m.
16	Municipal Court - Schedule may change	8:30 a.m.
22	National Earth Day	
24	Earth Day Celebration - School Closed	Cancelled
24	National Arbor Day	
27	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.



March 23, 2020

Now is Our Moment

Life in our small town has changed abruptly with the COVID-19 threat. One thing that has not changed—and will not change—is Veneta’s remarkable capacity for compassion.

Easy examples of Veneta’s rare gift of care and concern for others existed well before COVID-19: The LOVE Project, the many faith-based community programs, Kiwanis, and Mid-Lane Cares just to name a few of the many volunteer groups who proudly call Veneta, “Home.”

The weeks and months ahead present us with the opportunity of our lifetimes to show what we, and Veneta, stand for: Small town concern for others and a strong can-do attitude.

Take this time to connect with those around you—six feet apart, of course!—and recognize that we’re in this together. We need each other to ease our stress with a casual conversation, a quick laugh, or a simple act of kindness. Take a leisurely walk or enjoy a bike ride and offer a friendly wave. You can do social distancing and still be sociable.

Take this time to help our local businesses weather this storm on behalf of their employees, who are our neighbors and friends. Take time to send thank you notes to our local first responders bravely doing what comes second-nature to them: Serving others. And take time to recognize that you have a role to play in helping the Veneta community adjust to this new “normal.” See if our local food pantry, LOVE Project, needs help. Contact the Red Cross to give blood. Help a neighbor with their yard, shop or prepare a meal for a nearby shut-in.

This is a unique time in our nation’s history and our personal histories. Be the change that is needed now to adjust to new ways of interacting, while keeping with our old ways of treating each other with care and compassion.

The City is here because of you and for you. We stand ready to embrace this challenge with you and come through it a stronger community. Take care of yourself, and one another.

Keith Weiss, Mayor